

Livestock sector statement of support to ICN2

Thank you mister/madam Chair.

My name is Veronique Droulez. I'm a nutrition specialist at the International Meat Secretariat. I am making this statement on behalf of the livestock sector. We comprise five global organizations: International **Dairy** Federation, International **Meat** Secretariat, International **Poultry** Council, International **Egg** Commission, and the International **Feed** Industry Federation.

Food and nutrition security are essential for society, including business, to function effectively. Therefore we are committed to support efforts to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition. Livestock products are important for food and nutrition security, because livestock can convert materials that are inedible to humans, such as grass as well as food residues and biomaterials, into high-quality, nutrient-rich foods.

We would like to propose five opportunities for public-private partnerships.

The first opportunity is in **enabling environments**.

Collectively, the private sector has an enormous amount of knowledge, resources and networks about the food system which could help to inform implementation of the Framework for Action. For instance, evidence-based research and information on nutrient composition, food production and consumption can contribute to improving information systems (p3 pt 5).

The second opportunity is in **sustainable food systems**.

We recognize the need to improve sustainability of food production, as demonstrated by our active participation in the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. We welcome the recommendation of the Framework for Action to improve food production and processing, as well as its acknowledgement of the need for efficient and effective trade (p.3, ps 2, 4). Adoption of better practices and appropriate technologies best suited to regional economic and environmental needs is required to optimize the resilience, safety and productive potential of the food system. Investments and collaboration in research, development and innovation should bring benefits to all stakeholders, including smallholders and family farmers.

The third opportunity is **addressing wasting, stunting as well as anaemia in women of reproductive age**.

There is good evidence that dietary diversification strategies using animal source foods are effective for combating micronutrient deficiencies and improving growth, cognition and behaviour.

The fourth opportunity is **improving access to healthy, diversified diets**.

Low intakes of animal source foods are associated with iron, zinc, calcium, riboflavin, vitamin A and B12 deficiencies and their related illnesses, particularly in infants, children, pregnant and lactating women. Some of these nutrients are only found in animal source foods and their bioavailability is higher than from other sources. Nutrient-rich ASF, including liver and meat are therefore recommended as complementary foods from six months of age to ensure nutrient requirements are met. The private sector can help address barriers to consumption, particularly where consumption is below recommended intakes. At the same time, we recognise our responsibility to help consumers choose a healthy, diversified diet. Many companies are involved in reformulating their products as part of efforts to reduce excessive amounts of fat, especially industrial trans fats, sugars and sodium.

The fifth opportunity is **nutrition education**.

The private sector supports nutrition education through point-of-sale information, marketing campaigns, school feeding programs, work place promotions and responsible marketing to children. In addition, guidance around portion size and preparation of balanced meals can support efforts to prevent unbalanced eating patterns associated with obesity and non-communicable diseases. Aligning resources and funding through public-private partnerships will improve the consistency and impact and evidence-based nutrition messages.

In conclusion,

Nutrient-rich livestock products are important for preventing all forms of malnutrition and the livestock sector is committed to constructively contributing to the Framework for Action through public-private partnerships.

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